

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1223

By Odom

A RESOLUTION to urge the United States Congress and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to take action to permit states to retain federal Medicaid funds for targeted case management.

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have put in place a rule that eliminates federal Medicaid reimbursement for targeted case management, a service that coordinates medical and non-medical services for children under care of Tennessee's Department of Children's Services and for other children not in state custody; and

WHEREAS, this federal rule change will result in a loss of \$73 million dollars in federal funds for the Department of Children's Services; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, an estimated 30,000 children benefit from targeted case management each year; and

WHEREAS, this elimination of federal funds by CMS will risk causing significant disruptions in service delivery in Tennessee and in more than 30 other states; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee and seven other states heavily rely on these funds to provide needed services to children; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, the Department of Children's Services estimates that this loss of federal funds will make necessary deep cuts in the department's budget that could include a reduction of approximately 160 positions, almost three percent of the department's 5,160-member workforce; and

WHEREAS, this change in administrative policy by CMS will have an immediate and significant impact on the budget of the Department of Children's Services, so that reversal of this rule change by action of Congress or by action of CMS would be in the public interest and would avoid significant disruption in services to children and the budgets of state governments across the country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body does hereby strongly urge the Congress of the United States and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services of the federal Department of Health and Human Services to swiftly reverse the federal rule change which eliminated federal Medicaid reimbursement for targeted case management.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be prepared and forwarded to the Director of CMS, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.